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**Commonwealth To Partner With The Harvard Business School And Tel Aviv University To Host CEO Cybersecurity Forum**

*Event will co-anchor the Commonwealth's World Cyber Summit, Convening Global Cybersecurity Businesses & Thought Leaders for Inaugural Two-Day Gathering*

**BOSTON**—Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker in partnership with Harvard Business School (HBS) and Professor Isaac Ben Israel of Tel Aviv University's Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Center, will host the first annual "CEO Cybersecurity Forum" at its campus in Allston, Massachusetts, on September 14, 2017.

The conference is part of a series of Massachusetts-based events over two days jointly organized as the "World Cyber Summit," focused on cybersecurity and its implications for business and society. World Cyber Summit events will collectively feature some of the world's leading cybersecurity experts from business, government, and academia.

"Massachusetts is proud to lead the nation with our innovation economy," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "As a hub for many of the nation's leaders in technology, healthcare, business, and academia, we appreciate the important role that cybersecurity plays to ensure our economy operates securely. We look forward to joining Harvard Business School and Tel Aviv University this fall to build upon the growing relationship between the Commonwealth, their institutions, and the entire cybersecurity industry."

Building off of the Commonwealth's 2016 trade delegation to Israel, the HBS CEO Cybersecurity Forum will convene a select group of CEOs from large public and private companies, top innovators from the Massachusetts cybersecurity cluster, and

faculty experts from a range of leading institutions. Discussions will center on the current state of cyber threats, best practices in cybersecurity, and the role of corporate leaders in addressing this area of deep strategic importance. With discussions facilitated by faculty from Harvard Business School and Harvard's John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the group will explore the landscape of cybersecurity entrepreneurship, the real-world implications of security breaches targeting companies and governments, and ways in which Massachusetts can strengthen its leadership position.

"Now more than ever before, the future of every global firm hinges in meaningful ways on its approach to cybersecurity" **said Nitin Nohria, Dean of Harvard Business School.** "As with most significant challenges the path forward begins by bringing thoughtful people together from across disciplines and we are pleased to work with Governor Baker and our colleagues at Tel Aviv University to convene such a discussion."

The curriculum for the Harvard session is being designed by Professor Marco Iansiti, faculty chair of Harvard Business School's Digital Initiative, whose mission is to bring together leading scholars and practitioners to study and shape the digital transformation of the economy. The format for the event includes a mix of lectures, panels, and open discussion. The sessions are designed to ensure that the insights and knowledge of this select group of business and thought leaders is fully leveraged. At the conclusion of the 8-hour event the group hopes to have the foundations of a leadership blueprint for corporate executives, as well as a range of ideas for strengthening the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's leading position in this rapidly evolving technology sector.

"Israel proved that it can be transformed from a start-up nation to a cyber nation by creating a cyber ecosystem in a very short time," **said Professor Isaac Ben Israel of Tel Aviv University's Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Center.** "We will be glad to share our experience with our American colleagues."

The HBS event will be preceded on September 13<sup>th</sup> by the "Massachusetts Cybersecurity Forum," a first-ever gathering of Massachusetts's world-class cybersecurity companies, thought leaders, research & development centers, universities, and talent. Hosted by Governor Baker and industry leaders, and organized by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Mass Cyber Forum is intended to strengthen connections and engagement among the Massachusetts cybersecurity ecosystem, and to build partnerships with cybersecurity businesses and thought leaders worldwide. The Mass Cyber Forum will include keynote remarks from Governor Baker, "cyber treks" to local cybersecurity and information security organizations, including IBM's X-Force Command Center & Cyber Range, Google,

Draper Labs, and other unique research facilities that set Massachusetts apart, a blue-ribbon panel discussion and networking.

Massachusetts has continued to grow its strong base of cybersecurity companies and world-class research institutions, becoming the region with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of firms on Cybersecurity Ventures' [annual list of the top 500 global companies](#). In addition, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts made a \$5 million dollar R&D investment to establish the UMass Amherst [Data Science/Cybersecurity Research and Education Collaborative](#), a public-private partnership supported by a \$15 million from the MassMutual Foundation that will help spur talent development. This builds on the 30 degree programs in cybersecurity at Massachusetts higher education institutions, as well as 13 leading University/ Non Profit research centers and 4 NSA Centers of Academic Excellence.

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